Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, July 23, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/pdmp/

PDMP Weekly Activity Report:

Emerald Ash Borer

Ohio:

EAB staff were provided training on July 17, 2004 to monitored trap trees and enhance communication skills for contacting cooperators.

Preparation is underway to initiate delimiting surveys for the North Baltimore detection and W. Lucas/E. Fulton infestations.

Virginia:

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services continues to report
negative results from their ash sentinel trees.

Indiana:

PDMP Staff Officer Deborah McPartlan and Director Mike Stefan attended a meeting at Senator Richard Lugar's office in Washington, DC last week, accompanied by LPA representative James Ivy. PDMP provided an update on the status of program in Indiana.

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources personnel continue to monitor the approximately 250 trap trees on a six day cycle in northeast Indiana. These traps were placed on a two mile grid.

Michigan:

As a precaution and in order to prevent further devastation caused by the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has amended the state's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantine, effective July 15, 2004.

This action identifies and regulates two additional "outlier" sites that were found infested with EAB and located outside the 13-county quarantined area of Southeast Michigan. Both sites currently have eradication (tree removal) and/or interim containment (combination of ash tree removal and trap/sentinel trees) activities underway. They include the following cities/townships or sections within:

- Branch County - Algansee Township, Branch Township, City of Coldwater, Coldwater Township, Quincy Township and Ovid Township.
- Roscommon County – Richfield Township

Under the quarantine, it is illegal to move ash trees, branches, lumber, firewood – ash as well as firewood of any species – and other materials from these areas unless chipped to one inch.

Pine Shoot Beetle

On 15 July a SPRO letter was issued adding three Pennsylvania counties (Snyder, Union, Sullivan) to the regulatory program for Pine Shoot Beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*). This regulatory action was taken in response to recent detections believed to be the result of natural spread of the PSB population from adjacent counties already under quarantine. There are now 38 counties in Pennsylvania regulated for Pine Shoot Beetle. Thirteen states, all contiguous, are participating in the PSB regulatory program. A map of the entire regulated area can be viewed on the PPQ web page: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/psb/psbfirstoccurr05192004.pdf

Gypsy Moth

The PPQ Gypsy Moth off-shore mitigation team will meet 9 August with representatives of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) to continue discussions pursuant to a Cooperative Agreement for monitoring of Japanese ports identified

as high risk for Gypsy Moth (GM) and actions to reduce the risk of GM movement to U.S. shores on ships that call at those ports. The Asian biotype of GM is endemic to Japan, and the risk of introduction to the U.S. poses particular concern because of its host range of approximately 500 species of plants, and the capacity of the insect to spread rapidly due to the female's flight range of more than 20 kilometers. Since 1991 at least five AGM ingressions have occurred traceable to ships arriving from Asian ports, the most recent in 2003 near Long Beach California. The PPQ team will also make assessments while in Japan of several ports believed to represent high risk due to proximity of AGM host vegetation and reports of established AGM populations. An April 2004 meeting with MAFF resulted in concurrence for the placement of pheromone traps in various ports to assess the AGM risk level as a prelude to discussions. PPQ provided trapping materials, and PPQ experts joined with MAFF in the placement of the traps during June. APHIS International Services personnel at the Tokyo mission have been indispensable in providing assistance to facilitate this initiative.

For additional information contact Weyman Fussell, 301-734-5705.

Phytophthora ramorum

Trace forward and national surveys continue as PPQ determines the nationwide distribution of *Phytophthora ramorum.* The number of confirmed positive locales from the trace forward, national, and other surveys is 146 in 21 States. These locations are primarily nurseries; while three are from landscape/environs situations. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR(1), AZ (1), CA(53), CO(1), FL(6), GA(13), LA(5), MD(2), NC(9), NJ(1), NM(1), NY(1), OK(1), OR(10), PA(indoor), SC(1), TN(2),TX(10), VA(2) and WA (21).

PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey sampling has been completed in 6 States in the Western Region (AK, AR, AZ, CA, LA, and OK). In the Deep South and mid Atlantic States, national surveys have been curtailed due to hot weather. To date, a total of 29,729 national survey samples have been collected from 1,084 national survey sites. The US Forest Service is also conducting *P. ramorum* detection surveys. As of July 9th, the USFS has conducted nursery perimeter surveys in 19 States and general forest sampling in 7 States. Laboratory diagnostic results from these samples are still pending. For more information on the Forest Service SOD nursery perimeter and general forest sampling methods, please refer to http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/fhm/sod/sod_natnl.pdf

Canada has identified three infested nurseries in British Columbia; one of which is a production nursery that shipped potentially infected plants to 19 nurseries in CA, OR and WA. Program staff has sent a list of nurseries that received plants from the British Columbia nursery to the affected States.

An APHIS *P. ramorum* Program Review will be held July 27 and 28, 2004 in Riverdale, Maryland with the participation of Federal and State partners, industry and other stakeholders. The current USDA policy will be reviewed and analyzed as well as regulatory responses to this year's detections.

PPQ, in collaboration with the National Plant Diagnostic Network, CSREES, State Plant Regulatory Officials, State Department of Agriculture Plant Clinic Diagnosticians, and Master Gardener and IPM Coordinators, will conduct two teleconferences to inform State cooperators of national efforts to date, to discuss the need for State-based response plans, and to provide training for master gardeners in the identification and proper procedures for suspect *P. ramorum* infected plants.

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Soybean Rust

Asian soybean rust (SBR) is a devastating fungal disease that is spread by wind-borne spores of the fungal species *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*. There is general agreement

among scientists, including USDA experts, that the disease will eventually reach the United States by natural means of airborne spore dispersal. In late 2002, USDA implemented a strategic plan for SBR, addressing protection, detection, response and recovery.

- APHIS will be talking about the plan and the recent Departmental emphasis on outreach at the American Soybean Association Soybean Rust Education Series, conducted in cooperation with USDA and sponsored by BASF Corporation, Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, John Deere, Sipcam Agro USA and Syngenta Crop Protection. Matt Royer, Anwar Rizvi, or Teung Chin will be visiting seven cities (Raleigh, NC- July 21, Plain City, OH- July 22, Memphis, TN- July 23, Indianapolis, IN- July 27, Fremont, NE- July 28, Moline, IL- July 29, and Mankato, MN- July 30) to educate producers about SBR detection and treatment.

- PPQ collaborated with the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and the Agriculture Research Service on a "National Soybean Rust Pest Alert." Extension agents and integrated pest managers at 78 locations received more than 200 copies to distribute to soybean growers and crop consultants. APHIS purchased 50,000 copies of this publication.

- As part of a cooperative effort with CSREES and the Iowa Soybean Association, LPA is a producing a Soybean Rust identification card. The field reference aid goes into production later this Summer.

- LPA is contracting to produce soybean rust radio public service announcements. APHIS is hoping to reach soybean producers in the large soybean-producing states with the "early detection and treatment, higher yields" message.

- Twenty-two States have submitted Section 18 exemption requests to the Environmental Protection Agency (Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas). This list is current as of 7/15/04 but does not mean that all of the applications have been approved. EPA will permit states to issue a declaration of crisis to spray any of the seven requested Section 18 fungicides as listed on the South Dakota and Minnesota applications, once SBR is confirmed by APHIS to be in the continental US. Section 18s will be granted for the administrative convenience of a three-year exemption instead of one year, and authorized in the absence of a declared federal agricultural emergency by APHIS. EPA already approved three fungicides (myclobutanil, boscalid, propiconazole) under a Section 18. EPA is reviewing the four other requested pesticidal active ingredients (pyraclostrobin, triflxystrobin and tebuconazole and tetraconazole [up for public comment]). Two active ingredients, azoxystrobin and chlorothalonil, are already registered specifically against SBR on soybeans in the US.